

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A solidifying material for a cell electrolyte solution, characterized in that said solidifying material is a block copolymer comprising, as segments A, a polymer non-compatible with said cell electrolyte solution and, as segments B, a polymer compatible with said cell electrolyte solution, and absorbs and solidifies said cell electrolyte solution; a smallest unit of said block copolymer is A-B-A; and to each of said segments B, at least one group selected from the group consisting of only a carboxyl group, an ester group, a hydroxyl group, a sulfonic group, an amino group and a cyclic carbonate group is bonded via a -S- bond or a -C- bond.

Claim 2 (Original): A solidifying material according to claim 1, wherein each of said segments A is a polymer selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyethylene and polypropylene and having a weight average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 500,000 and a content of said segments A in said block copolymer is 0.5 to 70 wt.%; and each of said segments B is a polymer selected from the group consisting of polybutadiene, polychloroprene and polyisoprene and having a weight average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 300,000.

Claim 3 (Original): A solidifying material according to claim 1, further comprising not greater than 85 wt.%, based on said block copolymer, of an elastomer non-compatible with said cell electrolyte solution.

Claim 4 (Original): A solidifying material according to claim 1, which is in a form of a film or sheet of from 0.0001 to 2 mm in thickness.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A solidifying material for a cell electrolyte solution, characterized in that said solidifying material is a graft copolymer comprising, as segments A, a polymer non-compatible with said cell electrolyte solution and, as segments B, a polymer compatible with said cell electrolyte solution, and absorbs and solidifies said cell electrolyte solution; and to each of said segments B, at least one group selected from the group consisting of only a carboxyl group, an ester group, a hydroxyl group, a sulfonic group, an amino group and a cyclic carbonate group is bonded.

Claim 6 (Original): A solidifying material according to claim 5, wherein each of said segments A is a polymer selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyacrylonitrile and poly(meth)acrylate ester having a weight average molecular weight of from 3,000 to 20,000, and a content of said segments A in said graft copolymer is 0.5 to 70 wt.%.

Claim 7 (Original): A solidifying material according to claim 5, further comprising not greater than 85 wt.%, based on said graft copolymer, of an elastomer non-compatible with said cell electrolyte solution.

Claim 8 (Original): A solidifying material according to claim 5, which is in a form of a film or sheet of from 0.0005 to 2 mm in thickness.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A cell comprising, as a constituent element, a solidifying material according to claim 1.

Claims 10-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A cell comprising, as a constituent element, a solidifying material according to claim 2.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A cell comprising, as a constituent element, a solidifying material according to claim 3.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A cell comprising, as a constituent element, a solidifying material according to claim 4.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A cell comprising, as a constituent element, a solidifying material according to claim 5.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A cell comprising, as a constituent element, a solidifying material according to claim 6.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A cell comprising, as a constituent element, a solidifying material according to claim 7.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A cell comprising, as a constituent element, a solidifying material according to claim 8.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A solidifying material for a cell electrolyte solution, characterized in that said solidifying material is a block copolymer comprising, as

segments A, a polymer non-compatible with said cell electrolyte solution and, as segments B, a polymer compatible with said cell electrolyte solution, and absorbs and solidifies said cell electrolyte solution; and smallest unit of said block copolymer is A-B-A; and to each of said segments B, at least one group selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group, an ester group, a hydroxyl group, a sulfonic group, an amino group, a cyclic carbonate group and a polyoxyalkylene group is bonded via a -S- bond.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A solidifying material according to claim 25, wherein each of said segments A is a polymer selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyethylene and polypropylene and having a weight average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 500,000 and a content of said segments A in said block copolymer is 0.5 to 70 wt.%; and each of said segments B is a polymer selected from the group consisting of polybutadiene, polychloroprene and polyisoprene and having a weight average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 300,000.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A solidifying material according to claim 25, further comprising not greater than 85 wt.%, based on said block copolymer, of an elastomer non-compatible with said cell electrolyte solution.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A solidifying material according to claim 25, which is in a form of a film or sheet of from 0.0001 to 2 mm in thickness.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A cell comprising, as a constituent element, a solidifying material according to claim 25.

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Reply to Office Action of February 9, 2004.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A cell comprising as a constituent element, a solidifying material according to claim 26.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A cell comprising as a constituent element, a solidifying material according to claim 27.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to make it clear that only a carboxyl group, an ester group, a hydroxyl group, a sulfonic group, an amino group or a cyclic carbonate group is bonded to segment B.